APPENDIX I

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ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES
Sixth Annual Meeting, St. Thomas, V.I., October 20-25, 1974

The sixth Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean University and Research Libraries opened formally on Sunday evening, October 20, with greetings by Arthur A. Richards, Dean and Provost, College of the Virgin Islands, and Hortense M. Rowe, Commissioner of Conservation and Cultural Affairs. After a brief response from ACURIL President Archie L. McNeal, University of Miami, a special welcome from Melvin H. Evans, Governor of the Virgin Islands, and a reception followed.

On Monday, October 21, the first administrative session centered upon a report from the president, which mentioned, with appropriate pride, the growing institutional membership and strengthened treasury of the Association and reported on progress made in publishing the papers of the ACURIL conferences. Those of the first two conferences have been edited by Alma Jordan, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, and published by the American Library Association. Papers of the two following conferences are in process and the Committee on Publication and Promotion, chaired by Albertina Perez de Rosa, University of Puerto Rico, hopes to be able to provide for regular publication of conference papers. Mr. McNeal announced that ACURIL was now a full member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and that he would represent the Association at the 1974 meeting. He also mentioned the Association's need for a full-time Executive Secretary to oversee ACURIL's developing programs.

Maria Elena Cardona of the Biblioteca Regional del Caribe and Chairman of the Committee on Bibliography, presented a report of the committee's activities, which has been expanded by the creation of regional subcommittees. Copies of a *Bibliografia de Bibliografias del Caribe*, compiled by Mrs. Cardona, were later distributed. Arabia Teresa Cova, Universidad Central de Venezuela, spoke for the Venezuelan subcommittee and a report was heard from the subcommittee from Puerto Rico. Amendments to the by-laws of the Association were presented by Gustave A. Harrer, University of Florida. They provided for continuity of councilors in the event of irregular meetings or elections and for the election of persons making "past, current, or potential" contributions to librarianship in the Caribbean to dues paying associate membership in the Association, regardless of whether their institution was a member of ACURIL. Another change provided for honorary life membership, an honor later conferred upon Enid Baa, formerly Director of the Bureau of Public Libraries, St. Thomas, and Dra. Perez de Rosa, at the annual banquet. New councilors elected at a later administrative session were Lynette Hutchinson, Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago, Mario Goderich, University of Miami Law Library, and Ernest C. Wagner, Head Librarian, College of the Virgin Islands.

The general theme of the conference, "Centralization of Libraries and Their Services," was taken up in six general sessions. At the first session on Monday afternoon, Mr. Harrer presented a paper on "Centralized Administration of Academic Libraries, USA." He dealt with arguments for and against the principle of strongly centralized libraries, a concept developed in the United States in the interest of economy, adequate bibliographic control, and enlightened library management. But he was careful to stress that there were valid exceptions to this principle. In this session, moderated by Mr. Wagner with Grace Quiñones, University of Puerto Rico, serving as secretary, Frederick E. Kidder, University of Puerto Rico, offered comments on the paper, and emphasized that while centralization could lead to efficiency, user satisfaction remained the ultimate goal. Discussion on the delicate balancing of responsiveness to needs with centralized personnel and acquisition programs followed. Edwin Ifill, Barbados Public Library, then reported for the Committee on Indexing (English) which has began a project to index West Indian poetry, limited to publications of the former English colonies. Eventual publication of the index is envisaged. Ana Olivia Marín, Universidad Central de Venezuela, then gave a report of the Committee on Indexing (Spanish) in which she outlined the work done by the Committee in gathering information on indexing done by specific libraries of specific periodical titles. A list of all the available information had been compiled and copies were distributed. Mrs. C. P. Fray, of the Commonwealth Library Association, mentioned the activities of that Association with respect to the promotion of national bibliographies.

The second general session, moderated by Dra. Perez de Rosa with Vilma de Bayron, University of Puerto Rico Law Library, acting as secretary, centered around Working Paper No. 2, "The Centralization of Technical Processes," prepared by Olga Rios de Torres, Carmen Martínez de Hernandez, and Belsie Cappas de Pinero, University of Puerto Rico. Comments by Rosa Abella, University of Miami, and Elizabeth Peeler, Florida International University, focused on efficiency and the closer bibliographic control afforded by centralized processing and the benefits to be gained by using standardized and centralized cataloging such as that provided through the Library of Congress and its MARC system, the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC), and other unified systems. Cataloging in Publication (CIP) and use of a cataloger's camera were also mentioned as possibilities. Etienne Merlo, Centre Universitaire des Antilles et de la Guyane, Martinique, pointed out that Caribbean publications, while not numerous, show great diversity and questioned the wisdom of developing dependence upon systems such as those of the Library of Congress which respond to quite different needs. Shirley Alonzo, University of Guyana Library, suggested that ACURIL establish a Technical Services Committee and Lynette Hutchinson asked for more precise information on the volume of work and extent of staff turnover at the University of Puerto Rico.

Jessica Wellum, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, reported plans for national bibliographies of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Barbados and suggested the possibility of furnishing copies of cards produced on the St. Augsutine campus in an MTST system and following international standards. Srta. Quiñones mentioned the losses incurred through the development of systems with incompatible components.

Tuesday afternoon was spent in tours of the St. Thomas Public Library and the Ralph M. Paiewonsky Library of the College of the Virgin Islands. The former is under the Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs and serves not only as a municipal library, but also as a state library, with functions spreading into archival and museum matters. The latter is a recently designed and constructed building boasting space for expansion and a sloping walk bordered by running streams flowing over stones and tropical coral.

The third general session on Wednesday morning was moderated by Samuel Douglas, St. Thomas Public Library, with Mrs. Hutchinson serving as secretary. In Working Paper No. 3, by Daphne Ottley Harper, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, on "Centralization of Libraries in Government Departments and Agencies, with Special Reference to Trinidad and Tobago and the English Speaking Eastern Caribbean Region," the author emphasized the need for provision of efficient information services to governmental decision makers by libraries clustered according to subject and a considered balance of centralization, coordination, and dispersion of collections, services, and supporting functions. Throughout the discussions, the importance of library and information services in developing countries was emphasized, along with the need to impress upon officials the potential usefulness of information services provided by trained personnel. Gladys Henriquez, Interamerican University, agreed that a valid specialization of services can be made along subject lines and emphasized the need to change the attitude of public officials and to implement the statutory bases that already exist for coordinated and broad scale library services. Mrs. Fray mentioned the favorable cost/benefit ratio statistics for information services developed by Imperial Chemical Industries and suggested that the benefits could be even greater in developing regions. It was further reported that the heads of government of the Commonwealth Caribbean had agreed to include libraries in national development plans and suggested that ACURIL should channel suggestions through the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Caribbean Council. Henry Chang, St. Croix Campus, College of the Virgin Islands, added a plea for the inclusion of systems of centralized distribution of government documents, proposing a network of regional depositories.

Srta. Quiñones reported for the Committee on Acquisitions (Spanish) and distributed a guide to publishers in the Spanish Caribbean (*Guia de Editoriales en el Area Española del Caribe*) prepared by the Committee. The guide was a revision of a list prepared in 1972. Another project, a compilation of university and institutional publications, to be issued annually, is currently being planned. Verna E. Penn, Public Library of Tortola, reported that she had prepared a catalog of public documents available in the Library of Road Town and mentioned the passage of a new legal depository law. Dr. Jordan, Chairman, gave a report of the Personnel Committee. It contained several resolutions directed towards study and analysis of conditions of academic and research library services and called for plans for the gathering of information, the recognition of regional groups in this

research, and the development of suitable standards of services. The committee also recommended that ACURIL adopt a program of continuing education through preconference workshops, emphasis on central themes of critical importance, and the self-evaluation of ACURIL sessions. The possible interest of a North American School of Library and Information Science in aiding in the committee's program was reported.

Working Paper No. 4, "Centralization of Academic Libraries in Venezuela," was presented by Olga Oropeza de Ojeda, Universidad Central de Venezuela, on Wednesday afternoon, with commentary by Srta. Marín, of the same university. The session was moderated by Cecilia Mendoza and Edison Irizarry, Interamerican University, acted as Secretary. Emphasis was placed upon the growing trend toward cooperation, the development of networks and systems, centralized technical processes, and union catalogs. Srta. Marín commented on the extent and role of centralization in such areas as budget, technical processes, and public services. A reception to have been given by the President of the College of the Virgin Islands on Wednesday evening was cancelled after a day of rain which brought flooding, landslides, and disruptions in telephone communication to the island of St. Thomas.

At the Thursday morning session Dra. Perez de Rosa reported for the Committee on Publications and Promotion, reiterating the Association's gratitude for those who prepared and issued the ACURIL *Newsletter* at the University of Puerto Rico. It was announced that the Executive Committee had voted to publish papers in their original language and not to require a translated abstract in the other principal language. A request was made for guidelines in the preparation of papers; it was revealed that such guidelines already existed but were frequently ignored.

Working Paper No. 5, "Centralization of Academic Libraries in Colombia and Puerto Rico," by John Veenstra, Interamerican University, followed, with Mr. Goderich acting as moderator and Joan Hoyer, Curação, as secretary for the session. Commentary was provided by Sra. Bayron, University of Puerto Rico Law Library. Mr. Veenstra's paper proposed the three C's—centralization, cooperation, and coordination—as the best solution to the problems of providing academic library services. He concluded that a better infrastructure for centralization existed in Colombia than in Puerto Rico and cited work done in such key areas as union catalogs of serials and the sharing of periodical indexing. He referred to recent experience at Interamerican University, where a degree of centralization had been achieved with centralized processing and in the sharing of resources, in spite of the reluctance of some of the campus hierarchies to back closely coordinated efforts. Sra. Bayron emphasized that the benefits of centralization were in part dependent upon the homogeneity of the units in any system; she spoke for law librarians in stressing disparate needs that would not be served by centralization. General discussion again emphasized that developing countries may become too dependent upon foreign models and the need to develop national standards of service and systems. Mrs. Wellum suggested that centralized but simplified cataloging systems could be developed to serve certain regions.

On Thursday evening, ACURIL delegates were invited to a reception at the Government House. After a pleasant social interlude at which the Governor was joined by the Lieutenant Governor in a warm welcome to the Virgin Islands, delegates returned to conference headquarters for the Annual Banquet. The new President, Sra. Cardona, received the symbols of her new office. President McNeal, following the tradition of earlier presidents, gave the Association an appropriate parting official gift and thanked the officers and members who had supported efforts in behalf of ACURIL.

In a final session on Friday morning, it was reported that 117 people had registered for the Conference. Mrs Wellum gave a report for the Committee on Acquisitions (English language) composed of members of the English-speaking Caribbean. The committee had just been granted funds with which to acquire publications which would be gathered and distributed through a central operation supported by a revolving fund. Emphasis will be upon monographs. The Acquisitions Committee has also been concerned with the development of legislation for legal deposit and the development of standards for printing formats. Mrs. Wellum outlined the national bibliographies that were being encouraged and developed in the English-speaking Caribbean, pointing out that plans for French and Dutch publications would also be needed. New officers of the Association, in addition to the councilors mentioned above, include Srta. Marín, the new Vice President and President-elect.

In the final portion of the program, Kenneth Ingram, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, served as moderator and Dra. Abella as secretary for Working Paper No. 6, "Centralization of Academic and Research Library Services in the English-Speaking Caribbean, with Special Reference to the University of

the West Indies," by Dr. Jordan. She emphasized the continuing and valid questions about centralization versus decentralization, the administrative entities and physical dispersion of teaching programs that affect these questions, and related these matters to the growth and development of the University of the West Indies. The University has scattered campuses with exclusive and overlapping academic programs, factors which require a judicious balance between centralization and autonomy of units in library operations. Coordination, more than complete centralization has provided certain solutions to the problem of how to stretch resources to meet demands. Allan Moss, University of the West Indies, Barbados, commented on the provocative insights provided by the paper and mentioned special ways in which specific units of the library system were cooperating.

Resolutions passed by ACURIL VI concerned such matters as creation of a committee to study the automation of technical processing, urging the Caribbean Community Secretariat to concern itself with government publications, the study and compilation of statistics and a plea for cooperation in the task of promoting interuniversity exchanges, support of publications and bibliographies by ACURIL, the study of all aspects of legal deposit and literary rights, the intensification of indexing projects, and the support of continuing education programs.

Other items agreed on were an expression of concern for areas in the Caribbean that had been affected by natural disasters and a special appreciation to the library associations of St. Thomas and St. John and to the local arrangements committee consisting of Mr. Wagner, Mr. Douglas, and Jeannette Allis, College of the Virgin Islands.

The Conference closed with the West Indian kalaluai, with regional food and entertainment, held on Friday night. Originally to have been held on one of the island's beaches, this final social event took place indoors at the Ramblers Club because of continued showers which had little effect upon the conviviality of the occasion. [*Mary Ellis Kahler*]

APPENDIX II

OFFICIAL SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
Ottawa, Canada, November 13-14, 1974

At the invitation of Guy Sylvestre, the National Librarian of Canada, the following national library directors or their deputies met at the National Library of Canada to discuss the feasibility of forming an international association of national libraries: S. B. Aje, Director, National Library, Nigeria; Zilda G. de Araujo, Biblioteca Nacional, Brazil; H. J. Aschenborn, Director, The State Library, South Africa; H. T. Hookway, Executive Director, The British Library, United Kingdom; Elizabeth Hamer Kegan, Assistant Librarian of Congress, Library of Congress, United States; Gerhard Munthe, Overbibliotekaren, Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo, Norway; Kurt Nowak, Stellvertreter des Generaldirektors, Deutsche Bibliothek, Federal Republic of Germany; C. Reedijk, Bibliothecaris, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands; W. Stankiewicz, Dyrektor, Biblioteka Narodowa, Poland; Richard T. Stone, Liaison Officer, National Library of Australia, Australian Consulate-General in New York, Australia; Heihachiro Suzuki, Deputy Librarian, National Diet Library, Japan; Guy Sylvestre, Directeur général, Bibliothèque nationale, Canada; E. de la Torre Villar, Director, Biblioteca Nacional de México, Mexico; and Reuven Yaron, Director, Jewish National and University Library, Israel.

Secretariat for the meeting was provided by the National Library of Canada. The Honorable Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State (and the minister responsible for the National Library) greeted the participants. Dr. Sylvestre was elected chairman and Mr. Aje was elected rapporteur. The agenda for the meeting was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Hookway reviewed existing related associations and organizations whose structure and activities have direct relevance to the concerns of national libraries and national information systems and considered the need for and possible functions of an international association of national libraries. Dr. Reedijk outlined the proposals which the Programme Development

Group has made to IFLA regarding the reorganization of the Federation's sections and committees, including the suggestion that there be a section for national libraries within the General Research Libraries Division. Dr. Sylvestre then outlined the most feasible alternatives for an association of national libraries, considering the role and method of operation of such an association and its relationship to other bodies.

This was followed by a long discussion of the alternatives for the establishment of an association of national libraries, including whether such an organization should be a part of IFLA or an independent organization, whether it should consist only of directors of national libraries or should include other staff members, and whether it should be a formal organization or an informal roundtable.

The following decisions were made:

(1) That an informal meeting of directors of national libraries would be organized in connection with the IFLA conference in Oslo in August 1975 to discuss several priority topics of concern to national libraries. After sufficient experience with an informal arrangement of this type, a decision would be made about whether or not to establish a more formal association;

(2) That there was unanimous agreement that any new organization for national libraries which might be formed would be planned so as not to jeopardize the programs and activities of IFLA in any way. It would be premature at this time to try to determine what working relationship the proposed organization should have to IFLA, but the Federation should be kept informed of further activities related to the establishment of an association of national libraries and should be asked to make suggestions. It will be proposed to IFLA that Dr. Reedijk act as the liaison between the informal group and IFLA;

(3) That a working group to be called the Interim Planning Committee chaired by Dr. Sylvestre and consisting of Dr. Araujo, Dr. Hookway, and Dr. Munthe should be responsible for inviting participants to the Oslo meeting, planning the agenda, and preparing a working document. The secretariat for the meeting would be provided by the National Library of Canada and local arrangements would be made by Dr. Munthe in cooperation with directors of other Scandinavian national libraries. For the purposes of the meeting, the definition of a national library will be that used by UNESCO in its document on international standardization of library statistics, with exceptions made where considered desirable by the Interim Planning Committee; and

(4) That the working paper for the Oslo meeting could consider such topics as the relationship of the national library to the national infrastructure, the responsibility of national libraries in promoting distribution of bibliographic data, developing an international interlibrary loan system, and promulgating bibliographic standards, and the position of national libraries in relation to other information activities and services, especially those in the fields of science and technology.